



**TENTH  
CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT**

# CONGRESSMAN MARK KIRK'S FAMILY UPDATE

## DISTRICT UPDATE

**FORT SHERIDAN BLUFFS** — Kirk legislation led to this month's announcement by the U.S. Navy that it will transfer a rare stretch of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline to an environmental trust for permanent preservation.

**ROUTE 176 INTERCHANGE** — In April, Congressman Kirk presented a check for \$800,000 in federal funds to the Village of Lake Bluff to pay for the Phase 1 Study of the U.S. Rt. 41/Illinois Rt. 176 interchange improvement and reconstruction project.

**ANNUAL MAYORS SUMMIT** — Congressman Kirk's annual meeting with 10th District mayors focused on transportation upgrades, environmental cleanup, anti-gang initiatives and upcoming federal legislation.

**BUYER BEWARE** — Congressman Kirk issued a warning to Voice-Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) users that their emergency 911 calls may not reach operators. His warning came after raising the issue with the Federal Communications Commission in April. Addressing Kirk's concerns, the FCC issued a rule in May requiring VoIP providers to provide e911 service to all of its customers within 120 days.

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

*"Hello my brother,  
I am free!"*

Professor Shoaib Choudhury shares his joy with Dr. Richard Benkin of Mt. Prospect upon being freed from a Bangladeshi prison. Congressman Kirk and Dr. Benkin teamed up to win Choudhury's release following 17 months behind bars for advocating Jewish and Muslim dialogue and establishing ties between Bangladesh and Israel.

## Youth Aid

Dear Friends,

In April, it was my honor to recognize in the Congressional Record hundreds of high school students from our communities for their humanitarian efforts in the wake of last winter's devastating tsunami. I am very proud of the young Americans in my district who answered the call of service and raised over \$600,000 for tsunami victims halfway around the world.

Student Councils, community service clubs and entire student bodies from across the Tenth Congressional District held fundraising events, competitions and collections in ongoing efforts to benefit the American Red Cross, UNICEF and countless other relief organizations.

While dozens of schools throughout our community participated, special recognition should be given to Daniel Klein from Arlington Heights. Daniel used his own money to order red rubber bracelets with "Students for Relief" printed on them. What started as a hope to send a small amount of money to the battered region, turned into an effort that has raised over \$500,000 through the sale of nearly 450,000 bracelets.

Our young people exemplify American generosity and remind each of us that we can all make a difference in the lives of those in need — and there is no better time to start than now.



*Mark*

## Sudan Awareness

Many Americans are working to raise awareness about the genocide in Sudan. Last month, Congressman Mark Kirk spoke to more than 1,000 New Trier students as part of Sudan Awareness Day, organized by teacher Caroline Muir and student Brit Woodbury. Recently, the lead singer of the rock band U2, Bono (pictured right), invited Kirk to meet with him about the Sudan and other issues affecting Africa, and he brought along Muir and Woodbury, two outstanding Americans who were making a difference right here on the North Shore. Bono could not have been more generous with his time, and everyone walked away with a renewed commitment to help fulfill our country's promise against genocide — whether in Europe or the Sudan.



# Kirk Outlines Legislation Needed to Lower Gas Prices:

*End Fuel Monopolies, Extend Tax Credits for Hybrid Fuel Vehicles, More Mass Transit*

With gas prices continuing to edge toward \$3 a gallon, Congressman Kirk outlined key pieces of legislation needed to help lower fuel costs. He is supporting legislation to end fuel monopolies, extend tax credits for the purchase of hybrid vehicles, build more U.S. refineries and require an increase in the fuel economy of cars sold in this country.

"We need to take proactive steps to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, maximize fuel efficiency on the road, develop alternative fuel sources and crackdown on unfair business practices," said

**"Over time, the federal government should move the nation to a single standard, clean-burning gasoline," said Rep. Mark Kirk. "This will allow us to meet environmental standards while breaking local fuel monopolies."**

*The Washington Times, April 13, 2005*

Congressman Kirk during an event that included leaders in the field of alternative fuels and hybrid vehicles. "The price of gas is too high and will continue to rise if we do not act soon."

The legislation he is sponsoring will reduce the number of "boutique fuels" required across the country, thus breaking a number of fuel monopolies. In addition, the congressman is also sponsoring legislation that would extend the tax credit for hybrid vehicle owners due to expire in 2006. The law would also provide incentives for innovations in hybrid conversion technology.

Kirk also highlighted suburban mass transit expansion currently underway — double tracking of Metra's North-Central line will be complete in December and recently authorized funding for Metra's new STAR line giving commuters in the northwest suburbs rail service and access to O'Hare International Airport.

## Daily Herald

### Daily Herald Editorial

#### Plan now to control gas prices later

...While U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk probably doesn't mind whatever friend-of-the-consumer image he might gain from his recent remarks about fuel prices, he also is raising constructive and important ideas for keeping gasoline prices from spiraling out of sight. Little can be done in the short term; Kirk acknowledges as much... With that in mind, Kirk, who represents the eastern portion of Lake County and parts of Northwest Cook County, suggests measures that could help control prices in the longer run and minimize the damage of permanently higher petroleum costs... Washington needs people like Kirk who are willing to take the lead on these issues, not for personal benefit but to cushion the economic shocks that lie ahead.

*April 17, 2005*

## Chicago Tribune

FOUNDED June 10, 1847

### Kirk revs up proposals to control fuel prices

Seizing on consumers' concerns about higher gasoline prices as the summer driving season nears, U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk on Monday called for federal legislation aimed at everything from requiring increased fuel efficiency for cars to extending a tax credit for those who buy hybrid vehicles. Kirk has co-sponsored legislation that would reduce the number of gasoline varieties, so-called "boutique fuels," which, under federal and state regulations, can be sold in only certain parts of the country. That situation creates local monopolies that charge higher gas prices in places such as Chicago, Kirk said. Eventually, Kirk said, he would like to see the federal government move toward one standard for cleaner-burning gas that would create more market flexibility.

*April 12, 2005*



### Traffic Management Center

Congressman Mark Kirk takes part in a groundbreaking event for the new Lake County Traffic Management Center scheduled to open this July. Congressman Kirk helped secure funding for the new center that will use a hi-tech system including fiber-optic cables and cameras to control major stoplights in Lake County. The system will adjust stoplights for weather, time-of-day, season changes and traffic accidents.





### Student Art Contest Winner

Congressman Kirk awarded the top prize in the Annual Congressional High School Art Competition "An Artistic Discovery" to Elle Kruger, a junior at Stevenson High School. Kruger's piece was selected as the grand prize winner from among 18 original works-of-art and photography entered by high school students in the 10th District. Kruger's artwork will hang in the U.S. Capitol with the other grand prize winners from across the country.



## Daily Herald

### Anti-Gang operation still getting results in Waukegan

The anti-gang operation Waukegan police put on display recently for U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk continues to bear fruit. Kirk joined officers March 30 as they raided a pair of homes connected to rival gang members suspected in a series of drive-by shootings of houses and cars. Kirk's observation of the operation was part of his preparation for the awarding of up to \$250 million in anti-gun funding Congress is set to appropriate in next year's federal budget. As much as \$1 million of that money could be spent in Kirk's 10th Congressional District, he said.

*April 12, 2005*



Congressman Kirk joins Waukegan gang crimes detective Andy Ulloa on an anti-gang operation in March to learn more about the ongoing gang problems facing our suburbs.

## Working Toward Drug Free Schools and Communities

According to new statistics, our efforts to curb the use of club drugs are working. The flow of club drugs into the United States has been reduced and the number of suburban kids using them is declining. At the same time, these statistics show a startling new trend among suburban teens. Heroin use is on the rise, as it becomes a popular drug of choice among white, middle class teenagers. One former heroin addict even told Congressman Kirk that heroin was easier to buy than beer.

Concerned over these statistics, Congressman Kirk led a mission to the Netherlands and Afghanistan in January where a majority of the world's club drugs and heroin are produced. His visit to the Netherlands followed up an international summit he convened in 2003 at Wheeling High School where the United States, Belgium and the Netherlands signed the International Anti-Club Drug Agreement. The agreement included the establishment of an anti-synthetic drug police squad in the Netherlands where 90 percent of ecstasy is made.

A majority of the profits from heroin sales in the United States and Europe are ending up in the hands of terrorist organizations like Al Qaeda. During his visit to Afghanistan, where three-quarters

## Daily Herald

### Heroin Fight Taking Kirk to Afghanistan

Increased heroin use by suburban young adults is helping create giant profits for Osama bin Laden, one of the world's largest dealers of the drug, federal officials say. Republican U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk of Highland Park said he'd lead a five-man delegation next week to Afghanistan as part of an effort to reduce heroin flow into this country.

*January 8, 2005*

of the world's heroin supply is produced, he met with Afghan President Ahmad Kharzai, who pledged to dramatically reduce the production of heroin in his country. Early indications show Afghanistan's eradication efforts are working in many parts of the country.

# Honoring the Greatest Generation

Over the past months, Congressman Kirk has had the honor to recognize members of our country's Greatest Generation. These are men and women who exemplify service beyond self and to whom this nation owes a tremendous debt of gratitude.

This past Memorial Day weekend in Arlington Heights' Veterans Memorial Park, he presented long-overdue medals to four World War II veterans and one Korean War veteran. Honored at the special ceremony were Anita Marks, an Army nurse from Highland Park who served two years in the Pacific treating tropical diseases like Dengue Fever; Norman Karel of Glenview, a member of the Army's 37th Infantry Division that invaded Bougainville in the Solomon Islands — a major land and sea battle of WWII; Dr. Morris Danzig of Northbrook, a member of the Sixth Marine Division that led the assault and capture of Okinawa; and Joseph P. Sblendorio of Arlington Heights, who served as a draftsman in the Air Force for four years during the Korean War. Medals will be awarded posthumously to the family of Edward Dorfman of Buffalo Grove, who served in the Army during WWII for four years, returned home and eventually became president of a Jewish War Veterans Chapter in the Chicago area.

In March, Congressman Kirk traveled to the North Shore Senior Center to honor Northbrook resident Milton Greenfield with several combat and service medals he earned during WWII. Greenfield was a First Lieutenant, Tank Platoon Commander, in the Third Army Sixth Armour Division, commonly known as "Patton's Tank Corps." Greenfield participated in four major battles, including the Battle of the Bulge, where his heroic efforts earned him nine medals, including the Distinguished Service Medal and the Purple Heart.

Recently in North Chicago, Congressman Kirk was joined by a very special veteran, Frank Sublett of Glencoe, to announce a grant to build the first African-American World War II memorial

Congressman Kirk honored one of the last surviving "Golden 13" African-American officers, Frank Sublett, at a ceremony commissioning a new World War II veterans memorial in North Chicago.



Ensign Frank Sublett of Glencoe in 1944 when he became one of the first African-American Naval Officers.



to honor the "Golden 13." Frank Sublett and twelve other sailors were the first African-American officers commissioned by the U.S. Navy. The memorial will honor all WWII veterans, with special plaques marking the service of the Golden 13 and other prominent African-American military heroes, and will be built in North Chicago's Veterans Memorial Park. It is scheduled for completion in 2006.

"It is my honor to salute these heroic veterans for their military service during two historic wars," said Congressman Kirk during the Memorial Day ceremony in Arlington Heights. "And to the men and women in uniform serving across the globe today, a grateful nation sends its support and prayers."



## SLAB Works With Habitat for Humanity

Congressman Kirk joined his Student Leadership Advisory Board (SLAB), made up of junior and senior class presidents from 10th District high schools, at a Habitat for Humanity project in Waukegan. He discussed the importance of providing affordable housing for low income residents with SLAB members who gave up a Saturday to work on the project.



# Chicago Area Exempted From Train Horn Rule

It took years, but Congressman Kirk's efforts to protect our communities from noise pollution and costly federal mandates finally paid off. The Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Final Rule regarding the use of train horns at railroad crossings exempted the Chicago area from the requirement to sound train horns. The FRA noted much of the data collected for the Chicago area and the balance of Illinois were badly out of date and further inquiry was needed.

Under the discarded previous rule, several communities in the Tenth District would have had to pay millions of dollars to upgrade safety equipment at railroad crossings in order to keep their quiet zones. The discarded previous rule would have dramatically lowered property values and triggered so much noise pollution that costs and quality of life issues would have overwhelmed any benefits.



Congressman Kirk rallied the Illinois congressional delegation to send FRA Chairman Allan Rutter a letter requesting a reevaluation of the Interim Final Rule on the use of locomotive horns at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings. The FRA responded, exempting the Chicago area from the Final Rule until a thorough review can be completed. To ensure our communities can keep their quiet zones, Kirk proposed an amendment currently pending in the Federal Transportation Bill to transfer the regulation of train whistle requirements from the FRA to the Illinois Department of Transportation.

## PIONEER PRESS

### Rule delay to keep train horns silent

U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-10th, said this week he'll fight for federal legislation to block permanently the Federal Railroad Administration from imposing safety measures some area municipalities consider unfair. The FRA extended a whistle ban on April 22 at grade level railroad crossings that already have such bans. "I have very little faith the FRA can fairly administer this rule for the Chicago area," Kirk said. "I think in their heart of hearts, they want to eliminate the quiet zones here."

May 12, 2005



## Keeping Doctors in Illinois

Access to quality healthcare is reaching a crisis point in Illinois. Medical malpractice premiums are expected to rise higher this year, driving more doctors from our state. The exodus of doctors from the state of Illinois is alarming and that is why Congressman Kirk co-sponsored the Help, Efficient, Accessible, Low Cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of the 109th Congress — legislation that will keep doctors practicing medicine in Illinois.

Lake and northern Cook County's close proximity to the Wisconsin border has doctors moving their practices to Wisconsin where liability reforms, including caps on non-economic damages are in place.

With only one neurosurgeon practicing in Lake County and three serving the county altogether, an access-to-care crisis puts residents at-risk should they suffer a traumatic head injury.

The Illinois State Medical Society is distributing green wristbands titled "Keep Doctors in Illinois" to keep this healthcare crisis fresh in our minds until true medical liability reform is achieved.

## Sewage Dumping Threatens Great Lakes

Congressman Kirk is leading a bi-partisan effort to block the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to allow partially treated human sewage to be dumped in our waterways. Dumping raw sewage may be causing record numbers of beach closings.

The *Save Our Waters from Sewage Act* will stop the EPA from turning the clock back on 30 years of water protection under the Clean Water Act. It highlights the need to invest in and upgrade our nation's wastewater infrastructure.

It is the responsibility of all states and cities bordering the Great Lakes to act as good environmental stewards to our country's most precious freshwater resource.

# Kirk Launches Tenth District Laureate Program

Backed by the teachers and experts on his Education Advisory Board, last September Congressman Kirk started the "Tenth District Laureates Program." The program provides highly focused education opportunities to seventh grade students in the Tenth District. Twelve middle schools in the district were selected through a lottery to participate in the program with one boy and one girl being selected from each school. The students received behind-the-scenes access to the Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, Abbott Laboratories and the Chicago Botanical Garden.

With the budget unsure for "gifted education" programs, it is important to develop innovative teaching opportunities outside the classroom that challenge gifted children in our communities. At the start of each school year, the Tenth District Laureates Program will select 24 seventh graders to participate in this unique program.



The Adler Planetarium arranged a videoconference for the Tenth District Laureates with scientists doing research in the Atacama Desert.

## PHOTO GALLERY



Joined by his wife Kimberly in the Oval Office, Congressman Kirk was promoted to Navy commander from lieutenant commander by President Bush. The commander in chief did the pinning honors for Kirk, the only active duty Navy reservist currently serving in Congress.

## HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

### District Office

102 Wilmot Road, Suite 200  
Deerfield, IL 60015  
(847) 940-0202  
(847) 940-7143 fax

### Waukegan Office

20 South Martin Luther King Drive  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
(847) 662-0101  
(847) 662-7519 fax

### Washington, D.C

1717 Longworth  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4835  
(202) 225-0837 fax

To contact us, please  
visit our Web site at  
[www.house.gov/kirk](http://www.house.gov/kirk)



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

*Official Business*

### Congressman Mark Steven Kirk

102 Wilmot Road, Suite 200  
Deerfield, IL 60015  
(847) 940-0202

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